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News

New Hot Vents in NE Pacific

Over the past few years many workers have been attracted to the Juan de Fuca ridge 500 km off the Pacific northwest coast to study its tectonics. Investigations by both American and Canadian scientists in the southern part of the system and Canadians in the northern extension entered territorial waters provided much of the background for the first submersible venture on this actively spreading ridge. In August 1983 a joint expedition of Canadian and American geologists and biologists set out to examine the ridge in the area of a seamount that sits astride the spreading axis. Scientific participants came from the universities of British Columbia, Victoria, Washington, Toronto, California at Santa Barbara, and the Institute of Ocean Sciences, British Columbia.

The three-person submersible *Pisces IV* is owned by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Canada) and is operated by the Institute of Ocean Sciences, Sidney, B.C. This cruise represented her first venture below 800 m; she performed eight dives and averaged 8 hours a dive.

The seamount caldera, about 12 km², is floored with young, glassy lavas that are pitted with collapse features. The caldera walls, on the other hand, are older and cut by a suite of fissures. Hydrothermal activity was discovered in the continuation of one fissure on the caldera floor at 1580 m and close to the targeted junction of the northern caldera wall and the spreading axis. The fissure, 300 m long and barely wide enough to allow the submersible entry, contained a series of warm-water vents with water to 35°C. The biota here was prolific but no sulphide deposits were evident. Outside the fissure, however, two isolated chimneys were found. From one of which warm water still issued. The structures were about 9 m high and 4 m wide at the base. A 150-kg sample revealed a porous mass of sulphates, iron and zinc sulphides.

Animal growth on the glassy surfaces in the caldera was sparse. Approach to the vents was indicated by increasing numbers of crabs and occasional bacterial mats. The fissure itself was carpeted by mats in which polychaetes and gastropods could be seen. In areas of active venting, the exit of water was obscured by extensive growths of beardworms that formed large structures in which many other vent-specific species were found (see cover). In addition to numerous rock samples, the sub also collected thousands of animal specimens and drew samples of the vent water.

Plans for future work on this spreading system are being made for next year. The *Atvin* will spend much of the summer on the ridge while *Pisces* will return to the axial seamount; a proposal is also being reviewed to bring the French submersible *Cyana* to the area at the same time. The Juan de Fuca may need some traffic because, both on the surface and on the floor, for some time to come.

This news item was contributed by Verena Tunncliffe, who is with the University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8W 2Y2.

Kinetic Factors in Geothermometry

The application of geothermometer/geobarometer mineral assemblages as markers of temperature and pressure in geologic formations has become highly sophisticated by the inclusion of kinetic factors in analytic procedures. That a chemically complex mineral assemblage has equilibrated during its geologic history under intense conditions is a major premise in geothermometry. That the equilibrium conditions have been quenched into the phases so that composition and crystal structure may be used to reveal the temperature-pressure-fugacity that characterized a point—the most intense point—in an assemblage's geological history is another premise. Rarely does either premise prove entirely true, but kinetic factors, if understood, could assist in their interpretation.

Recently A. C. Lasaga developed an analysis he dubbed "geospeedometry" as an extension of conventional geothermometric analysis (*Kinetics and Equilibrium in Mineral Reactions*, S. K. Saxena (Ed.), Springer-Verlag, New York, pp. 81-114, 1983). Lasaga treated analyses of several ion-exchange mineral pair geothermometers to include diffusion coefficients, time factors, and thermal evolution. The result was a set of working equations to calculate the kinetic response of ion exchange geothermometers to their thermal history.

The approach of geospeedometry is valuable in evaluating the rate-determining steps of mineral reactions. The ultimate value of a geothermometer is not necessarily evident in a lack of chemical zoning, as had been thought in many instances. It is largely the mineral phase with the slowest diffusion process in the temperature range of interest that identifies a useful mineral assemblage. Lasaga found, for instance, that the usefulness of olivine crystals as geothermometers is narrowly limited to relatively fast cooling rates (greater than 10°C per year). By contrast, the suitability of garnet geothermometers in Lasaga's words is "quantitatively proven." One must be cautious, however, in interpreting upper-mantle temperature-pressure conditions from studies of garnet-pyroxene pairs; in some examples, lack of equilibrium is a source of error.—PMB

Chesapeake Bay Under Stress

According to extensive data obtained over its 13,000 km of shoreline, the Chesapeake Bay has been suffering a major, indeed unprecedented, reduction in submerged vegetation. Chesapeake Bay is alone in experiencing decline in submerged vegetation. Other estuary systems on the east coast of the United States are not so affected. These alarming results were obtained by the synthesis of the findings of numerous individual groups in addition to large consortium projects on the Chesapeake done over the past decade. R. J. Orth and R. A. Moore of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science pointed to the problem of the severe decline of submerged grasses on the Bay and along its tributaries. In a recent report, Orth and Moore note: "The decline, which began in the 1960's and accelerated in the 1970's, has affected all species. In all areas. Many major river systems are now totally devoid of any rooted vegetation" (*Science*, 222, 51-53, 1983).

The precipitous decline in the many different varieties of submerged aquatic vegetation has serious implications for the Chesapeake Bay. Important brackish/saltwater marine life and water fowl use the so-called salt-grasses

and cannot exist without them. Moreover, the grasses play an important function in stabilizing the sedimentary formations that underlie the Bay. Without this stabilization, the fragile shorelines are subject to rapid destruction. The 290-km long Chesapeake Bay is the world's largest estuary. It could become characterized by highly sedimented shallows within decades instead of following a gradual change thought to require geologic processes over a period of several thousand years.

Analysis of seeds and pollen stored in Bay sediments in some areas has revealed a continuity in the existence of Bay grasses for more than 200 years. Suddenly, in 1973, they disappeared from the stratigraphic record. In the ensuing 10 years there has been no sign of new vegetation. This decline extends to all species, and is thus not localized.

The causes for the decline of Bay grasses are not so simple to deduce. In the simplest analogy it would appear that the loss of grasses has resulted from decreasing light penetration of Bay water because of the increased growth of phytoplankton and because of fine sediment dispersal. Nutrient enrichment is a probable cause. The concentrations of phosphorus, nitrogen, and chlorophyll have been increasing for several decades in direct or indirect response to the increased transport of fertilizers into the Bay. Likewise, pesticides could affect the plant life.

In upper Chesapeake Bay regions, the decline of the critical submerged grasses began in the 1960's. However, the 1972 date, which applies to the lower Bay, coincides with the date of Tropical Storm Agnes. Large volumes of fresh water and sediment flowed into the Bay after Agnes. Salinities were reduced in all parts of the Bay for several weeks, affecting much of the brackish water marine life. Major changes in the existing submerged grasses of the Bay occurred. The decline has not stopped. It would be important to study the silt and sediment record in detail. Likewise, it will be important to preserve all areas of existing submerged grasses.—PMB

Counting Clouds

A 5-year, international scientific program is under way to study and describe in detail the earth's cloud cover. In the hope that it will contribute to our understanding of how clouds affect, and are affected by, weather and climate, the United States, Canada, Japan, India, and several nations of the European community are participating in the International Satellite Cloud Climatology Project. The project will use data from an array of earth-orbiting satellites to inventory the whirling clouds below.

The ultimate aim of the study is to improve worldwide weather forecasting. Clouds can have either a cooling or warming effect—cooling when they reflect incoming solar radiation back into space, and warming when they trap heat reflected from the earth's surface. The net effect is still a matter for study, however, as are the questions of whether a global climatic warming would increase or decrease cloud cover, or whether clouds stabilize or destabilize the climate.

The project will use data and images from five geostationary meteorological satellites: the European Space Agency's Meteosat, India's Insat, Japan's GMS (Geostationary Meteorological Satellite), and two U.S. Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites, GOES-East and GOES-West. Also contributing data will be the U.S. TIROS-N polar-orbiting satellite. All six satellites are expected to be operational by the end of 1983.

The lead U.S. agencies for the project are the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and Robert Schiffer of NASA is the international project manager. The National Science Foundation and the departments of Energy and Defense are also participating in the project, which is being conducted under the aegis of the World Climate Research Program, sponsored jointly by the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council of Scientific Unions.

Offshore Oil Prospects Improve

The issues, prospects, and environmental concerns about drilling for offshore oil and gas are being seen in a different light than at any other time during the past decade. Exploration drilling on offshore locations is proceeding at a high rate, and environmental concerns, while recognized as real, appear to be a lot less worrisome than might have been predicted a decade ago. Part of the reason for the changes in levels of concern results from the close monitoring programs that have been in effect for the past few years. Paul R. Ryan of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution recently described explo-

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ration activities on Georges Bank: "We now have the results of the first year of monitoring, and, although eight wells are considered a minimal observational test, there were no biological changes in the benthic community that could be attributed to drilling activity." (*Oceanus*, 26, 2, 1983). The U.S. Geological Survey studied the Georges Bank drilling activities as well. Barium from drilling muds was detected at the sites, but in decreasing concentrations at distances away from drilling rigs. There was no evidence that the discharges caused biological changes. According to Ryan: "Postdrilling concentrations of barium were found to be within the range of predrilling concentrations measured at other locations on the Bank. Concentrations of other metals measured were low and characteristic of unpolluted, coarse-grained sediment in other Continental Shelf areas."

A factor in present-day offshore oil and gas exploratory drilling is the experience gained from the Deep Sea Drilling Project. The drilling ship *Glomar Challenger* has penetrated the ocean floor of the Mariana Trench at water depths of approximately 7 km, setting an example whose model has been influential on exploration. Oil rigs must use riser systems to avoid the release of drilling muds and cuttings, and they generally must penetrate to greater depths in sediment than the *Glomar Challenger*. Nonetheless, offshore oil rigs are drilling in water depths of approximately 3 km, and then continuing into sediment for a kilometer or more. Because only a few percent of drillable offshore areas have been explored, the pace of this type of drilling will not lessen in the next decades. Undiscovered petroleum resources on continents and their shelves and ocean slopes are estimated at more than 3×10^{12} barrels (573×10^{12} liters) worldwide.

In reference to the Law of the Sea, Hollis D. Hedberg recently stated:

"The Law of the Sea Treaty, as presently proposed, fails to provide a sound and definite basis for drawing the limit between coastal-state and international jurisdiction over mineral resources along the outer edge of the continental margin where it extends more than 200 nautical miles from shore. In effect, this uncertainty means that exploration will be deterred over large areas of the continental margin. There are two formulas for determining boundaries allowed by the Law: the first is based on the impracticable measure of the thickness of sediments as a function of distance from the foot of the slope; the second involves the difficulty of drawing directly a precise base-of-slope boundary, with no provision for a guiding, internationally approved boundary zone within which each coastal state could establish its own precise boundary."

"No oil company is going to risk the huge amount of money required for a well in these very deep waters without clear demarcation of a national boundary. Hence, the region affected by the dubious boundary—which may be many thousands of square miles in area and commercially significant—becomes valuable to no one." (*Oceanus*, 26, 2, 1983).

Even under the constraints imposed by the Law of the Sea and by natural barriers of deep ocean sites, drilling is proceeding and the prospects of finding major fields are good. The potential problems of assessing the discharges from the drilling process continue to be addressed. R. P. Trorine and J. H. Trefry of the Florida Institute of Technology recently described new techniques to trace the distribution of such discharges in a study conducted on the outer continental shelf of the northwest Gulf of Mexico (*Environmental Science and Technology*, 17, 507-512, 1983). As new drilling techniques with highly developed risers and discharge control methods are developed, new tests can assess their effectiveness in offshore operations.—PMB

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Senior Research Geophysicist/Confidential Shell Institute (IKU). The Institute is seeking an experienced geophysicist to develop a section for applied research within seismic data acquisition, processing and interpretation. The section should consist of 6-7 professionals, of which 3 geophysicists are already employed. In cooperation with Geo and Norsk Shell, IKU operates a fully equipped processing center (NORSIS) located in IKU premises. The position will involve responsibility for generation, presentation and accomplishment of R & D projects within the above mentioned fields. This will include a close communication with the oil companies engaged in the Norwegian continental shelf as well as other R & D institutions. The candidate should have an advanced degree in geophysics (or related disciplines) and at least 5 years experience with seismic research and/or exploration.

We can offer competitive wages (exceed the first two years), Governmental Pension/Retirement, collective insurance.

For application and further information, please write to Hans Olav Torsen, IKU, Box 1885, 7001 Trondheim, NORWAY, as soon as possible.

Louisiana State University/Chas. T. McCord, Jr. Endowed Professorship in Hydrocarbon Exploration. The Department is seeking an internationally recognized leader in some research specialty critical to the future of the state to fill the Chas. T. McCord, Jr. Endowed Professorship. Applicants are expected to maintain scholarly research in their area of specialty. Rank at Full Professor level with salary commensurate with university level. Consideration will be given to research in hydrocarbon exploration, reservoir engineering, three letters of reference, and a description of future research programs.

For application and further information, please write to: Dr. J. L. McCord, Jr., Department of Geology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1101. Salary will remain open until position is filled.

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OCEANOGRAPHER

The U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center, Groton, CT, has an immediate opening for an Oceanographer (GS-1360-11). The incumbent serves as task manager providing theoretical and computational assistance for the development of specified surface drift computer models. Translate concepts for the physical interaction of surface movement into operating time-dependent predictive computer programs.

Candidates should be degreed and possess at least 3 years of professional experience in Physical Oceanography. Additional attributes would include competence in computer science, experience in writing technical reports, experience in programming minicomputers in FORTRAN and BASIC, knowledge of statistical practices and analysis techniques as well as excellent oral communication skills. Field work involving stays of a month or more at any location in the continental US including Alaska and Hawaii, is required.

This is a Federal Civil Service position. Applicants must submit OPM form 1282 (Application for Federal Employment). Apply to Office of Personnel Management, Boston Area Office, 3 Center Plaza, Boston, MA 02108. Applications must be received by December 16, 1983. Application forms and information may be obtained by telephoning (203) 444-8202.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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The College of William and Mary/Physics Faculty Position. William and Mary experts have a tenure-track opening at the assistant-professor level for August, 1984. Preference will be given to applicants in the field of theoretical physics (including quantum mechanics, nonlinear mechanics, or statistical mechanics). The physics department currently consists of 22 faculty, 7 postdoctoral fellows, and 150 students. 40 Ph.D. candidates graduate students. Plasma physics funding is currently from NASA and the Department of Energy. Please send your resume and list of three references to: Chairman, Search Committee, Physics Department, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185.

William and Mary is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer; women and minority applicants are encouraged to apply.

University of Texas at Austin/Geology Chair. The Department of Geological Sciences seeks a person at the rank of full professor to occupy the recently endowed Geology Chair effective September 1, 1984. Teaching obligations include one undergraduate or graduate course each semester and the supervision of graduate students in the areas of the person's interest. A willingness to teach courses for non-majors on occasion is desirable. The person's field of research must be one that is related to a broad range to the exploration for hydrocarbons. The Geology endowment will provide the chair holder with modest funds for support of travel and research activities. Applicant should submit a detailed resume, names and addresses of five references, and a statement of teaching and research interests by February 1, 1984 to: Dr. Earle F. McBride, Chairman, Department of Geological Sciences, P.O. Box 7909, Austin, Texas 78712-7909.

The University of Texas at Austin is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Ohio State University/Structural Geologist. The Department of Geology and Mineralogy, The Ohio State University, invites applications for a tenure-track position for a structural geologist with a strong background in quantitative analysis of field data and research interests in regional tectonics and geophysics. The successful applicant will be expected to participate in the undergraduate program and give graduate courses in higher field of expertise. Conduct research, supervise graduate students, and interact with other departmental programs in regional geology and geophysics. Research will be given to candidates with post-doctoral or industrial experience. Rank and salary commensurate with experience and research record. Please send applications or nominations as soon as possible to:

Dr. Ralph R. von Frese
 Chairman, Search Committee
 Department of Geology and Mineralogy
 The Ohio State University
 Columbus, OH 43210
 Phone: (614) 422-3635 or 422-2721

Applications should include a resume, a statement of research interests and the names of at least three persons whom we may contact for recommendations. The closing date for applications is December 23, 1983; appointments will be effective no later than October 1, 1984. Additional information can be obtained by writing or calling the search committee chairman.

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Chair/Northern Illinois University/Climatic. Applications are invited for the position of Chair of the Department of Geology. We seek candidates who have an established commitment to research and who are interested in the challenge of leading a young and growing department while having just recently established a Ph.D. program. The department consists of 22 faculty, 7 postdoctoral fellows, and a strong Ph.D. program and is looking for candidates who will share that commitment. We seek the strongest possible candidates without regard to specialty; however, candidates in the areas of hydrogeology, hydrogeophysics, and geophysics are particularly encouraged to apply.

Rank and salary for the position are negotiable. Send resume and statement of interest to: Dr. M.P. Wells, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Geology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Northern Illinois University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

Geophysicist, Tectonophysics/Georgia Tech. The School of Geophysical Sciences at Georgia Tech is seeking applicants for a faculty appointment in Earth Sciences. Applicants must have an outstanding research potential demonstrated by several years of postdoctoral experience or a well-established research record and experience in securing research funding. Although no field of specialization is excluded, preference will be given to candidates with a background in geophysical tectonophysics.

The School of Geophysical Sciences has an expanding and active research program in many areas of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. The School has 23 full-time faculty members and over 50 graduate students. Applications including resumes, phone numbers, and the names and addresses of at least three references should be submitted to: Jean-Claude Maréchal, Chairman, Geophysical Sciences Committee, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA 30332.

The Georgia Institute of Technology is a unit of the university system of the State of Georgia.

The Georgia Institute of Technology is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

Oceanographic Microbiologist/Oregon State University. The College of Oceanography at Oregon State University has an assistant professor position open for an oceanographic microbiologist. The appointee will be expected to develop a program of research in the field of marine microbiology. Opportunities will be given in the teaching of classes and seminars in marine microbiology and biological oceanography and the supervision of graduate students. Candidates should hold a Ph.D. in biological oceanography, microbiology, or related discipline, and have substantial research experience specifically with marine microbes. Salary: \$27,000-\$35,000, negotiable. Submit resume and names of three references by January 15, 1984 to: Dr. G. Ross Heath, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Oceanography, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

U.S. Naval Academy/Volting Professorship, METEOROLOGY August 16, 1984 to June 15, 1984. Some variation of these duties is possible. Excellent opportunity for an individual who desires to do research while teaching a very light load in the field of his expertise. The U.S. Naval Academy, located in historic Annapolis on the shore of beautiful Chesapeake Bay, is near Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, MD. Salary commensurate with applicant's background. Considerable latitude of action in research, publishing, etc. Within limitations of the Academy's budget, travel is available. Earnest Ph.D. required. Please send resume and names of three references to: Prof. John F. Huffman, Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Oceanography Department, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD 21402. Closing date: January 3, 1984.

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University of Toronto/Faculty Position in Meteorology. Department of Geology has a tenure-track position available effective 1 July 1984. The successful applicant will teach undergraduate and graduate students in meteorology and igneous petrology and maintain a vigorous research program. Research fields are open but preference will be given to candidates with expertise in meteorological petrology. The department has well equipped laboratories including high-quality experimental and analytical facilities. The successful applicant will have a sufficient knowledge of NAA, XRF, or electron probe to be able to teach and supervise students. Ph.D. is required (or about one or more of these). Post-doctoral research experience would be an asset. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience at these levels: Assistant Lecturer \$21,200, Assistant Professor \$25,400.

Resumes including a resume and names and addresses of three references should be sent to: Prof. J. C. Norris, Chairman, Department of Geology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1. Closing date for applications is 31 January 1984. In accordance with Canadian Immigration law, we are required to direct the interview process initially to Canadian citizens and permanent residents after which other applicants may be considered.

Trinity University/Igneous or Metamorphic Petrologist. The Department of Geology is seeking candidates to fill a tenure track position with a specialty in igneous or metamorphic petrology beginning August 1984. The appointee will be at the Assistant Professor level and will be given to those individuals with expertise in igneous or metamorphic petrology. This position in teaching as well as a desire to engage in original research. The department is currently seeking a person with a strong background in igneous or metamorphic petrology and a strong interest in teaching and research. The successful applicant will be given to those individuals with expertise in igneous or metamorphic petrology and a strong interest in teaching and research. The successful applicant will be given to those individuals with expertise in igneous or metamorphic petrology and a strong interest in teaching and research.

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Oregon State University/Fisheries Oceanography. Applications are invited for a 12-month, tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in the College of Oceanography with a joint appointment in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Applicants must have demonstrated ability to conduct independent research and obtain research funding in the area of ecology of marine fishes or action. Work on population biology of nekton and fish. Applicant must have Ph.D. Postdoctoral experience desirable.

The appointee will be expected to teach courses in fisheries and oceanography and to supervise graduate students and develop a program of grant-funded research. Salary: \$27,000-\$35,000, negotiable. Application materials, including a letter of interest, should be submitted to: Dr. G. Ross Heath, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Oceanography, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

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Physical Oceanographer/Oregon State University. Assistant or Associate Professor, depending on experience. Applicants may be observational or theoretical. Must have a Ph.D. in the physical sciences, have demonstrated the ability to conduct independent high-quality research and are expected to teach and supervise graduate students. Interested candidates should submit a resume and names of three references by February 15, 1984 to: Dr. G. Ross Heath, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Oceanography, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

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Resumes including a resume and names and addresses of three references should be sent to: Prof. J. C. Norris, Chairman, Department of Geology, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1. Closing date for applications is 31 January 1984. In accordance with Canadian Immigration law, we are required to direct the interview process initially to Canadian citizens and permanent residents after which other applicants may be considered.

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Ohio State University/Paleogeologist. The Department of Geology and Mineralogy, The Ohio State University, invites applications for a tenure-track position for a paleogeologist with a strong background in paleogeography and a strong interest in the study of Paleozoic paleogeography. The successful applicant will be expected to teach and supervise graduate students and develop a program of grant-funded research. Salary: \$27,000-\$35,000, negotiable. Application materials, including a letter of interest, should be submitted to: Dr. G. Ross Heath, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Oceanography, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

University of California, Riverside/Geology (with emphasis on petrology). Assistant Professor opening beginning 1 July 1984. The appointee will teach at the undergraduate and graduate levels (M.S. and Ph.D.) and should be able to teach several of the following: Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Crystallinology, Field Geology, Physical Geology. Ph.D. required. In addition to teaching, research and service are required. Applicants should submit a current curriculum vitae with names and addresses of three people who have agreed to provide references. Applications received by February 1, 1984 will be given preference. Applicants may be accepted until successful candidate is appointed. Send applications to: Dr. Lewis H. Cohen, Search Committee Chair, Department of Earth Sciences, University of California, Riverside, California 92521.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

University of California, San Diego/Marine Researcher. The Institute of Marine Research at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California San Diego, is seeking an opening for an ASSISTANT RESEARCH CHEMIST (salary range: \$22,900-\$26,800) in the Food Chain Research Group. The primary responsibility of the position is to conduct research in marine chemistry. The successful applicant will be expected to teach and supervise graduate students and develop a program of grant-funded research. Salary: \$22,900-\$26,800, negotiable. Application materials, including a letter of interest, should be submitted to: Dr. G. Ross Heath, Chair, Search Committee, Department of Oceanography, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.

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